


Authority's Summer Intern

The Authority was pleased to have Christopher Nelson as our summer intern this year. Chris came to us from the Mayor's Office of Employment Development YouthWorks 2004 program. Through his exceptional academic and personal qualifications, Chris had earned a full scholarship and graduated from the McDonough School before joining the Authority. We matched his interest in communications to our evolving commercial recycling program, and put Chris to work.

During the summer, Chris not only learned about waste management, but combined his new found information with his communication skills to edit the Authority's commercial recycling website, www.mdrecycles.org and newsletter, Waste-Watch. Chris contacted many businesses in the region to encourage them to visit the website and start recycling programs. Chris also contacted many of the vendors on the website, to update the list of materials they accept so that visitors to the website would see current and reliable information.

We wish Chris the best as he starts his college experience at Loyola College in Baltimore. 

Record Compost Sales and the Silver Excellence Award for Baltimore City Compost Facility

The Baltimore City Compost Facility (BCCF), has sold out of ORGRO® compost every year since 1997. Since 2000, Veolia Water North America, the award-winning operator of the facility, has shared annual revenues with the City of Baltimore. In 2004, the city's revenue share eclipsed the previous year by 481 percent and marks the largest revenue share in the facility's history.


"It is truly gratifying to manufacture a product that creates beautiful lawns and landscapes, is environmentally beneficial and brings revenue back to the city in the process," said David Hill, project and marketing manager of the facility.

In more good news, the Baltimore City Compost Facility was selected this year by SWANA for its annual Silver Excellence Award. The facility was commended for its impressive performance in recycling 100 percent of all materials entering the site, selling out of its



Front and center: Mr. George Winfield, director of the Baltimore City Department of Public Works, displays the SWANA Award. To the left are John Skinner, SWANA CEO and Laura Thomson, project manager at the Authority; to the right are Mark J. Saunders, area manager of the facility and Richard J. Bartkowski, vice president Eastern District for Veolia Water, LLC (owner/operator of the facility).

compost product since 1997, and since 2000, exceeding the threshold for revenue sharing with the city. Representatives of the facility accepted the award (see photo) at WASTECON 2004 in Phoenix, Arizona, in September.

To learn more about the BCCF or to arrange a tour of the facility contact Andrew Kays at the Authority at 410-333-2730. 


Howard County Offers Recycling Service to Business

Last year, the Howard County Recycling Division began a pilot program that provides free recycling collection service to small businesses in the county. The program was started because many county businesses had requested more recycling options. For most of these businesses recycling collection was either not offered by their waste collection provider or the service was cost prohibitive. Initially, ten businesses that had requested service were added to Howard County's existing apartment/condominium/county building office lidded rolling cart collection route with once-a-week recyclables collection.

Businesses in the program range from a small print shop with four employees in Ellicott City to a manufacturing operation in Columbia with 300 employees. These businesses are now offered free mixed paper and/or commingled container (glass, plastic, aluminum and steel) recycling collection. Depending on volume of trash and office space constraints, either 40 or 90-gallon lidded rolling carts are placed at the business site. The carts are easily added or removed if initial volume estimates are too low or too high. All these businesses have to do is fill the containers with the appropriate materials and then place them outside for pickup by a county contractor. Most of the toters are kept inside dur-

ing the week and are only rolled outside on the night before or the day of collection.

An audit of the program's 13 enrolled businesses was completed in June. Using actual weight (not volume) measurements it was found that approximately 1750 pounds of recycled material was being collected each week, which equates to 85 tons per year. The per business average was 135 pounds/week. The commodity breakdown was 1,009 pounds of paper and 735 pounds of commingled items per week.

Since June, the program has added 11 businesses with a goal of having 100 in the program before July of next year. The county is now recruiting new businesses in Ellicott City, Columbia, Jessup, and Elkridge. 





Authority Releases 20

In this year's Annual Report Authority Executive Director Robin Davidov answers some important questions that help measure the organization's progress. After 24 years, the Authority continues to operate as one of the leading waste authorities in the country. This past year was notable for advances in applying new technology, for tapping into new markets for renewable energy and for continuing to successfully manage the Authority's state-of-the-art facilities.

AS WE CONCLUDE OUR TWENTY-FOURTH FISCAL YEAR at the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, I am prompted to reflect on a number of important questions. Of those, the most essential one is this—how do we, as a regional waste management agency, know we are doing a good job?

Like most public services, solid waste management is constantly changing and new questions arise that make evaluating performance a never-ending process. This year, to assess our progress, I've focused on answering six basic questions that best address our ongoing goals and objectives: 1.) Is there a better technology for reducing pollution from our facilities; 2.) Can we take advantage of changing markets to increase revenues for our members; 3.) Can we recover more recyclables; 4.) Can we assist our member jurisdictions with other waste management issues; 5.) Can we settle disputes rather than litigating them, and 6.) Can we encourage more businesses to recycle? These are the Authority's challenges and here's how we have met them this year.



Is there better technology for reducing pollution?

Of the many types of power plants waste-to-energy is one of the cleanest sources of steam and electricity, but we are also dedicated to taking advantage of the latest technologies. Unlike conventional coal power plants, waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities are required to control acid gasses, particulates and mercury emissions. This year the Authority procured and signed a contract for the installation of \$10 million of state-of-the-art pollution reduction equipment for the Harford WTE Facility. In other areas of the nation, small plants have closed down rather than retrofit. Harford County made the commitment to retrofit because WTE is providing reliable service that will continue well into the future. While the largest class of WTE facilities completed their retrofits earlier (BRESKO was retrofitted in 1996), the smaller class of facilities will meet EPA compliance in 2005. In comparison, coal plants are not required to add mercury control equipment until 2015.



Can we take advantage of the latest markets to increase revenues for our members?

Yes. This year we auctioned electricity and renewable energy credits for the 30-month period of January 2004 to June 2006 with projected increased revenues of 10 percent (approximately \$1.5 million) over the previous 30-month period at the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility. The Authority is considered a national leader in selling renewable energy credits from waste-to-energy facilities.





2004 Annual Report

Can we recover more recyclables?

Our commercial recycling outreach program worked with more than 25 businesses this year, and awarded special recognition plaques to many leading corporate citizens. The Authority's business-to-business website, www.mdrecycles.org continued to improve with the addition of online location mapping. Our three waste-to-energy facilities continued to recover and market ferrous metals from ash residue, recycling nearly 30,000 tons of material and generating more than \$1 million in revenues.

Can we assist our member jurisdictions with other waste management issues?

Our members' landfills are well run and well managed. This year we assisted our jurisdictions with many aspects of landfill management, including monitoring groundwater, controlling air emissions and aerial photogrammetry.

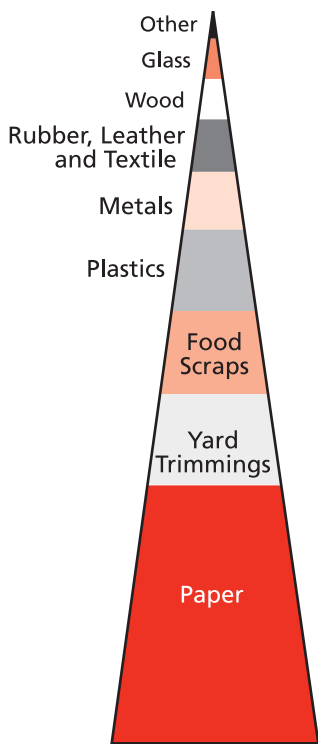
Can we settle disputes rather than litigating them?

At the Authority, we believe that settling disputes is always preferable to litigation. With help from the Attorney General's Office, we defended and finally settled a challenge from Waste Management, Inc. this year. Our members, while actively involved in decision-making as a case progresses through discovery, depositions and court, rely on the Authority staff and attorneys to achieve favorable resolutions to disputes.

Can we encourage more businesses to recycle?

Our commercial recycling outreach program provides one-on-one coaching for large local businesses. The program's theme is, "You recycle at home, why not at work?" It evolved from the high level of recycling awareness among our residents. Helping companies simplify the seemingly overwhelming job of managing multiple waste streams is the first step toward increasing commercial participation.

The answers to all these questions are pursued on a daily basis by a dedicated and highly specialized small staff of professionals who continually seek out creative solutions to all of the Authority's challenges. Our staff members work closely with an outstanding board of member representatives, who lend continuity and unparalleled waste management experience to all of the Authority's projects. The board's support and guidance allow the Authority to work efficiently and respond quickly to the needs of our member jurisdictions.



What's in our trash?
percentage by weight

Governing Magazine's 2004 Sourcebook: Talking Trash

The "2004 Sourcebook" published by *Governing Magazine* provides some interesting facts about trash. Maryland is ranked third in per capita municipal solid waste (MSW) generation and is one of the top 15 states for percent of MSW recycled.


If you look at the statistics for states with the highest percentage of recycling, the State of Maine stands out as an excellent example of how waste-to-energy and recycling tend to compliment each other. Maine has the highest recycling rate (49 percent) in the United States. Only 17 percent of the state's trash goes into landfills because 34 percent of it is recycled into energy at waste-to-energy facilities. Also of note is that after years of established recycling programs, no state has achieved above a 50 percent recycling rate. In states without waste-to-energy facilities, half of all waste generated ends up in landfills.

What's in the trash? According to *Governing*

States with the highest recycling rates in the United States:

State	% Recycled	% Waste To Energy	% Land filled
California	40	2	58
Iowa	42	1	57
Maine	49	34	17
Minnesota	46	25	29
Oregon	49	5	46


Magazine, the 2001 waste stream is generally made up of nine categories: paper, yard trimmings, food scraps, plastics, metals, rubber/leather/textile, wood, glass, and other.

The most vocal opponents of waste-to-energy argue that these facilities keep waste from being recycled. *Governing Magazine's* data clearly demonstrates that waste-to-energy facilities do not inhibit recycling, but rather, contribute to a significant reduction in the amount of waste buried in landfills. 

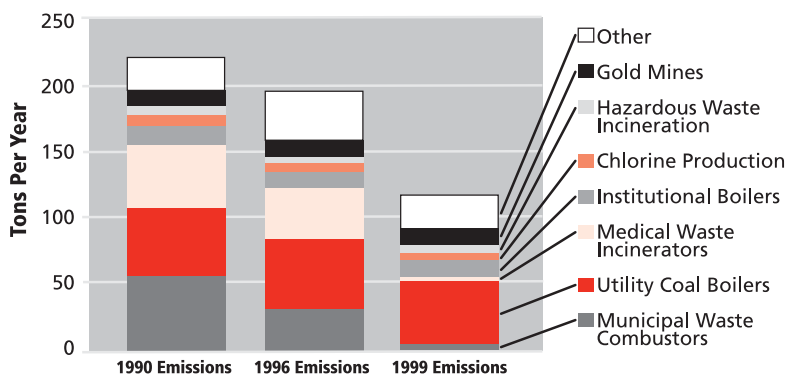
Municipal Waste Combustors Have Significantly Reduced Mercury Emissions

Many articles have been written recently about the effects of mercury on certain food sources. However, a report published by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

shows that great strides have been made by municipal waste combustors in the reduction of mercury emissions. In fact, the graph to the left shows that municipal waste combustors and medical waste incinerators are the only producers of mercury to reduce emissions over the past ten years. In the United States, coal-fired power plants are the largest unregulated source of mercury emissions and are responsible for approximately 40 percent of the country's industrial emissions. The EPA estimates that roughly two-thirds of all mercury deposits come from domestic sources and that U.S. power plants account for about one-third of the mercury deposited in this country.

The municipal waste combustor industry has proven that currently available air pollution control technology can significantly reduce the impact on the environment from this human-caused source of mercury. 

U.S. Emissions of Human-Caused Mercury




Source: EPA 1990, 1996 NTI and EPA, 1999 NEI. Short tons per year. Adjusted for gold mines in 1990 and 1996.

MCCRF

(continued from page 1)

named Waste-to-Energy Facility of the Year in 2000 by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and the 1998 Gold Excellence Award by the Solid Waste Association of North America.

The Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility continues to do its part to extend landfill life, process waste in an environmentally friendly way and strive for excellence in all aspects of operation. 


Baltimore City Declares Independence from Office Paper!

The City of Baltimore has offered an exciting new service to city businesses. In an effort to encourage more recycling, the city held a one-day, "Independence from Office Paper" program, where the city collected paper from businesses for free. All a business had to do was gather its paper and call the city for collection. Additionally, the city instructed businesses to let the Department of Public Works know if they needed free, regularly scheduled, paper recycling collection.

The Authority is an example of one business that is taking advantage of this service. Upon hearing of this program, the Authority contacted its building's management company, REIT Management, and urged them to participate. REIT was offering only white paper recycling to its tenants. Representatives from REIT Management jumped at the chance

to recycle more paper and save on their waste disposal costs. The company purchased rolling lidded carts for each office in its building at 100 S. Charles Street and contacted the City Department of Public Works at 410-361-9310 and arranged for collection.

Authority employees have always recycled paper, bottles and cans. Now, because of the city program, newspapers, magazines, telephone books, white or colored paper, folders, cards, catalogs, ad mail and cardboard are easily recycled!

Matt Muller of REIT Management reports that the program is working well and that they plan to expand the program to other buildings that they manage in the city. The Authority and REIT Management would like to thank the city for offering this free recycling service. 

Congratulations to the Montgomery County Materials Recovery Facility!



The Solid Waste Association of North America recently selected the recycling center as its 2004 Gold Medal recipient for recycling excellence.



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Disposal
Authority

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Wastewatch is published quarterly by the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, an independent agency of the State of Maryland governed by its Member jurisdictions — Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County and Montgomery County.

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The Baltimore City Compost Facility reached record sales levels for its compost product, ORGRO, and was selected for SWANA's Silver Excellence Award. **Page 2**

Increased Recycling Service for Small Businesses in Howard County

Businesses enrolled in this new program receive free pick-up of recyclables. **Page 2**

Authority Releases 2004 Annual Report

Executive Director Robin Davidov reflects on what factors have led to the Authority's continued success as the region's leading waste management agency. **Pages 3 & 4**

Important Waste Management Facts

In two articles we take a look at what's in our trash, the relationship between waste-to-energy and recycling, and how mercury emissions from WTE plants have been steadily declining. **Page 5**

Baltimore City Declares Independence from Office Paper

The city is offering a new office paper collection program to businesses ...and it's free! **Page 6**

Extraordinary Year for Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility

This past fiscal year was the best year of operations for the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility in Dickerson, Maryland. The facility ended the year with more than 600,000 tons of waste processed, for a grand total of nearly 4.7 million tons processed since the facility opened. While the industry average for tons processed is 85 percent of capacity, the Montgomery County facility's 2004 performance was 97.4 percent. In addition to excellent equipment availability, the plant met all of its environmental guarantees and permit requirements. That is an A+ performance.

Covanta operates the facility and Mr. Mark Freedman is the plant manager. Mr. Freedman has served as facility manager for three years. He previously worked for Bethlehem Steel in the power and utilities department. Mr. Freedman attributes the facility's success to many things including, "the world class operating standards that Mr. Art Balmer, chief of the county's Division of Solid Waste Services, has established for the facility." Employees strive to

...an A+ performance

FISCAL YEAR '04 STATISTICS

Tons Processed	640,101
% Throughput	97.4 %
Electricity Sold	power for 40,000 homes
Ferrous Metals Recycled	19,627 tons

achieve and maintain these high standards.

The facility also has an impressive worker safety record. In the last three years and seven months of operations, there has been only one OSHA recordable incident. There were no environmental violations in fiscal year 2004 and no air permit violations since the facility began operations in 1996. The Montgomery County RRF has received many awards including being

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Frederick County Joins Authority

The Frederick Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution making the county a member of the Authority. Frederick County becomes the eighth Maryland jurisdiction to join the region's waste management and development agency. Commissioners made the request to the Maryland General Assembly earlier in the year. The request was signed into law by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich and went into effect on July 1.

Residential and commercial growth has left Frederick County struggling with ways

to manage its integrated waste system. Michael G. Marschner, director of Utilities and Solid Waste for the county said that participation in the Authority would help the county find more ways to handle trash.

"As a participating county, we will receive a full-range of solid waste disposal services. The Authority will provide flexible alternatives to solid waste facility ownership, financing and operations, while preserving our local goals and needs. We think the Authority can benefit the county in many ways," said Marschner. 